

NOV - 1 2003

October 15, 2003

U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520-4818

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on the behalf of Thursday's Child Inc., the adoption agency that was the partner in my efforts to adopt my daughter. The hands-on supportive nature of this small, caring agency was a very significant part of the experience for me. They were a part of the journey every step of the way.

It has come to my attention that small agencies such as Thursday's Child of Bloomfield, CT may soon be in crisis. This is on the strength of regulations that will be introduced in the United States with the acceptance of the Hague proposal.

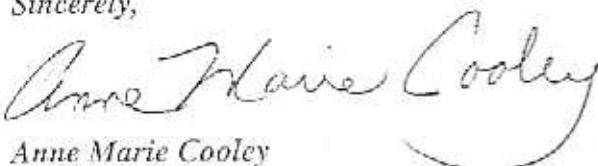
Having received a Master's in Counseling from New York University, I am most respectful of the fact that education is a valid and necessary part of the professional persona. Time and MANY years as a professional, have also taught me that life experience adds as much, if not more, to what a professional brings to the effort.

While I applaud the efforts to license and standardize your regulations, my hope is that it is not done at the expense of the smaller adoption agencies. In my heart, I truly believe that a large agency could not have accomplished what Thursday's Child provided for us. They were honest, caring, and completely deserving of my trust. All of that for less than any of the larger agencies would have charged for the same service.

I implore you to seek out the alternatives that will allow smaller agencies to survive within your guidelines.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Anne Marie Cooley

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To Whom It May Concern:

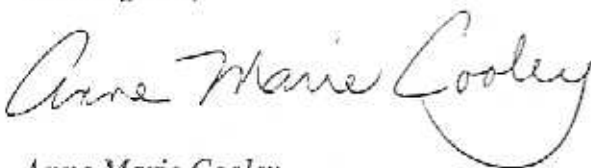
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Having received a Master's in Counseling from New York University, I am most respectful of the fact that education is a valid and necessary part of the professional persona. Time and MANY years as a professional, have also taught me that life experience adds as much, if not more, to what a professional brings to the effort. The staff of the Thursday's Child agency manages to be professional, in that warm and caring manner that makes you feel like part of the family!

In my heart, I truly believe that a large agency could not have accomplished what Thursday's Child provided for us. They were honest, caring, and completely deserving of my trust. All of that for less than any of the larger agencies would have charged for the same service.

I highly recommend the alternative experience that dealing with a smaller adoption agency will provide. Especially, if that agency is Thursday's Child, Inc!

Kind regards,



Anne Marie Cooley



Ms. Anne Marie Cooley
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Forest Hills, NY 11375-7128